

TRIBUTE TO GREG COOKE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to pay tribute to my good friend and one of Texas' most outstanding public servants, Greg Cooke. Greg Cooke passed away recently at the age of 51.

Mr. Cooke served as the top ranking EPA official in the area that encompasses Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

Mr. Cooke was an outstanding and dedicated citizen, and his commitment to Texas was instrumental in developing clean air plans for both Dallas-Ft. Worth and Houston-Galveston in partnership with the State of Texas. These plans contained innovative provisions that incorporated economic incentives, as well as, traditional mandatory measures. His clean air plans also included development of an innovative "compact" to facilitate early compliance with EPA's upcoming 8-hour standard for such cities as Austin and San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Cooke served as Regional Administrator of EPA Region VI for the past 4½ years. He was appointed to the post by President Clinton and was the only political appointee in the EPA retained by current President George W. Bush.

Greg Cooke exuded class—not only in the way he practiced law but also in the way he lived his life. He had a straight-ahead, just-the-facts writing style that belied his passion for environment.

Mr. Speaker, with Greg Cooke's passing, we have lost an impressive individual and a true leader. He championed the interests of Texas and environmental issues. Greg Cooke was a caring and compassionate man and a tremendous political leader and public servant. I extend my deepest sympathy to Greg Cooke's family.

TRIBUTE TO THE CROATIAN SONS
LODGE NUMBER 170**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the joyous occasion of its 99th anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, September 24, 2006.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration includes a ceremonial appreciation of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved 50 years of membership. This year's honorees that have attained 50 years of membership include: Angeli Cirrincione, Barbara Demers, Rosemary Gard, Catherine Grceovich, Catherine Jelovcic, Elizabeth Lukacek, Nikola Majetic, Margaret J. Milos, Virginia A. Mostak, Ruth Jean Mrzlak, Rudolph J. Pavletich, Sandra Louise Regan, Luandre Rozmanich, Robert Lee Scott, Ann

Louise Smoljan, Mary Ann Troksa, and Madeline Vukobratovic.

These faithful and devoted individuals share this esteemed tribute with 482 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this significant designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The Brace Tamburitza Orchestra will perform at this gala event. A formal dinner banquet in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in elevating the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed possibilities, admiration, and success for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

RECOGNIZING BROCK SMITH FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brock Smith, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brock has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brock has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Brock held the principal leadership position of Senior Patrol Leader and has actively supported the Southern Platte County Athletic Association in Kansas City, North.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brock Smith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2006, I was absent for votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: Vote No. 451, H. Con. Res. 210 Supporting Elimination of Cancer by 2015, "yea"; Vote No. 452, H. Res. 622 Honoring Filipino World War II Veterans, "yea"; Vote No. 453, H. Con. Res. 415 Condemning the Repression of the Iranian Baha'i Community, "yea."

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
TOM MCCAFFREY**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Tom McCaffrey, beloved husband, devoted musician, and teacher to so many. Mr. McCaffrey dedicated his life to encouraging and inspiring Clevelanders and brought them that which they had never felt and taught them the joy, warmth, power and strength of Irish traditional music.

Mr. McCaffrey was born in 1916, in Mohill, County Leitrim, Ireland, where he worked on the family farm until coming to America in 1955. Mr. McCaffrey was unable to resist the allure of music and at 10 years of age he took up the life and flute. After a year of flirtation with the woodwinds, Mr. McCaffrey found his true love and calling in the fiddle. For knowledge Mr. McCaffrey turned to his father, also a teacher and player of the fiddle, and sought all musicians who traveled through town. It was not long before he mastered the fiddle and with his fine, strong voice, Mr. McCaffrey was requested at local festivals and dances. In Cleveland, he teamed up with Tom Byrne, a master flute player and fellow inspirer, to record the album *Irish Music From Cleveland*. Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Byrne had a lifelong friendship full of music and laughter.

At the age of 83, Mr. McCaffrey found his other great love, Alice Kelly. Mr. McCaffrey was known to always have a smile and story ready and never hesitated to share his wealth of knowledge or his music. Recorded at the Smithsonian Institute, Mr. McCaffrey's music will truly live on in those whom he taught and in the hearts of all that have heard him play.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tom McCaffrey, whose smile, charm, wit, and Irish wisdom will be remembered and shared and whose memory will live in the tunes and tales. I offer my deep condolences to his wife, Alice, to all his family and friends, and to the many who have been inspired and touched by all that he has given.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING RE-
FORM IN THE HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of real, comprehensive lobbying and earmark reform, and in opposition to H. Res. 1000. While Republican leaders claim that this legislation is earmark reform, major loopholes in their bill allow future boondoggles like the Alaskan Bridge to Nowhere to pass through Congress without full public scrutiny. Further, the bill abandons any lobbying reform to end the Republican culture of corruption—typified by the Jack Abramoff and Duke Cunningham scandals.

The Republican majority has allowed these scandals and pet projects to run rampant, underscoring the dire need for comprehensive

lobbying reform. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, since President Bush took office, federal spending on earmarks has more than doubled—from \$33 billion in 2000 to \$67 billion in 2006. Sadly, Republicans have failed to deliver on reform. On September 5th, a USA Today editorial said, "Congress' answer to this ethics catastrophe has been a pair of competing measures in the House and Senate, which fall far short of what was promised in January but allow incumbents campaigning for re-election to claim they 'voted for lobbying reform.'"

The reality is that H. Res. 1000 will not save one taxpayer dollar, will not remove a single earmark, and does not cover all earmarks. This sham reform bill is solely a symbolic effort to hide the fact that the Republican Majority has failed the Nation on fiscal matters.

I join my Democratic colleagues in supporting a true, comprehensive lobbying reform bill that would ban travel on corporate jets, prohibit lobbyist gifts, slow the revolving door between Capitol Hill and K Street, shut down the K Street project in which jobs in lobbying firms were traded for legislative favors; shine the light on earmarks so that special interest provisions cannot be slipped into bills without public scrutiny, and put an end to some of the procedural abuses that have flourished in the Republican-controlled House.

Democrats are fighting for these comprehensive reforms to ensure that Congress is held to the highest ethical standards. Corruption has come at great cost to the American people—from the cost of prescription drugs to the price at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Democrats and I are fighting for a new direction, because Americans want and deserve the real reform that restores accountability, honesty and openness in Washington.

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 6061, SECURE FENCE ACT
OF 2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act of 2006. This bill will help secure the border and stem the unrelenting flow of illegal aliens into this country by authorizing 700 miles of two-layered reinforced fencing, mandating the Department of Homeland Security to achieve and maintain operational control over the entire border through various methods such as ground sensors, cameras and surveillance technology. It also requires the Department of Homeland Security to provide necessary authority to Border Patrol agents to disable fleeing vehicles, similar to the authority granted to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The provisions in this bill will address our country's vulnerability and strengthen operational controls along our borders. Border fences have a proven success rate in drastically reducing the number of illegal aliens entering our country illegally. When enacted, this bill will dramatically reduce illegal immigration and make us safer.

I have long been committed to stopping the flow of illegal immigration and securing our po-

rous borders. My constituents have made it clear to me they want our borders secure, our laws enforced and the flow of illegal immigration stopped immediately. The recent 22 immigration field hearings held across the country during the month of August yielded the same mandate from the American people, secure the borders now.

The amnesty provisions contained in the Senate-passed immigration reform measure earlier this year would encourage future illegal immigration and reward those who have violated America's laws with a quick and easy path to citizenship. There is more to be done in dealing with illegal immigration, but securing the borders must be the first step. America cannot afford to wait any longer and I will continue to push to secure our borders now.

**HONORING PATRICIA HOLSINGER
RYAN**

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Patricia Holsinger Ryan for her years of service to our Middle Tennessee community.

While Patricia recently passed away, we know her legacy is one of charity and dedication. We know that her memory lives on in our memories and in those who benefited from her good works.

Patricia was known for her compassion and care for those in Williamson County's senior homes and Alzheimer centers. She brought her warmth and compassion to those in need.

Her work with mistreated pets across the State meant homes for thousands of unwanted animals, and was yet another sign of Patricia's commitment to giving back more to her community than she took.

We won't forget Patricia and our community is a better place for her life and her work.

**INTRODUCTION OF TAXPAYER
PROTECTION FROM GENETIC
DISCRIMINATION ACT**

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Taxpayer Protection from Genetic Discrimination Act. This bill ensures that no American taxpayer will be denied health care because of his or her genetic history by any agency of the federal government, a state or local government, or a government contractor. Some people have raised concerns that, while recent advances in genetic testing bring much hope of improved medical treatment, the increased use of genetic tests may also result in many people being denied access to health insurance, or even refused employment, because of their genetic history.

I recently met with some of my constituents who are concerned that people with polycentric kidney disease, which can be identified with a genetic test, often lose their insurance coverage because their insurance com-

panies or employers discover they have polycentric kidney disease. Whatever long-term reforms designed to address this problem one favors, I hope that all my colleagues could agree that Congress should make sure that American citizens are not forced to subsidize government agencies or contractors who deny health insurance based on someone's genetic profile. I therefore hope all my colleagues support the Taxpayer Protection from Genetic Discrimination Act.

**RECOGNIZING JAMES FRAZIER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Frazier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. During his scouting tenure, James has earned the Philmont Scout Ranch Arrowhead, the BSA 50-Miler Patch, and the World Conservation Award.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Frazier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF SATISH KUMAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Satish Kumar, for a lifetime dedicated to teaching and serving as an inspiration to all. Mr. Kumar has done more, seen more, accomplished more and walked more than most and has never ceased in bringing his message to others.

Mr. Kumar started as a Jain monk at the age of nine before being called to greater causes. At 18, Mr. Kumar sought to make Gandhi's vision of a renewed India and peaceful world a reality. To this end Mr. Kumar walked, more than 8,000 miles, from India to four nuclear powers: Russia, France, Britain and the United States, to bring the leader of each a bag of tea and a message of peace and understanding. Carrying no money, he crossed deserts, traversed mountains, withstood snow and was even thrown in jail. Though Herculean in scale, Mr. Kumar's quest was completed, the tea was delivered, and he is still working to bring the message of peace to the world.

Mr. Kumar settled in England in 1973 to become the editor of Resurgence magazine, a post he maintains to this day, as well as the